बताना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्दर स्टेट फाइनेंशियल कार्पोरेशन के माध्यम से 50 परसेंट रुपया उसका जो लोग लेते है वह बिल्कुल उन कामों में इस्तेमाल नहीं करते है जिन कामों के लिए वह रुपया दिया जाता है। परिणामस्वरूप वह इण्डस्ट्री सिक हो जाती है। इंडस्ट्री सिक होने के बाद वे लोग गवर्नमेंट के पास कर्जा मुआफ कराने के लिए दौड़-धूप करने लगते हैं। तीसरी बात डिस्ट्रिक्ट इंडस्ट्री सैन्टर आपने बनाए है। उनका काम अवैज्ञानिक है। स्टेट फाइनेंशियल कार्पोरेशन के माध्यम से हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट इण्डस्ट्री सैन्टर का एक मानिटरिंग सैल बनाना चाहिए जिससे कि स्टेट फाइनेंशियल कार्पोरेशन के रुपये का ठीक से इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या नही इसकी वह पूरी निगरानी रखे। क्योंकि स्टेट फाइनेंशियल कार्पोरेशन इंस्टालमेंट्स में रुपया देती है इसलिए पहली इन्स्टालमेंट के बाद वह देखे कि उस रुपये का ठीक से इस्तेमाल हुआ है या नही ? मुझे विश्वास है माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी इस ओर ध्यान देंगे तथा इस बिल के माध्यम से जो भी अमेंडमेंट्स इसमें किए गए है वे बड़े सराहनीय हैं और इस काम से आप प्रदेशों के फाइनेंशियल इन्स्टीच्यूशन्ज में ऐसे परिवर्तन करेंगे जिससे कि आपका जो सोशियो-इकोनोमिक पालिसी का उद्देश्य है वह पूरा हो सके। इससे पिछड़े प्रदेशों का विकास होगा और छोटे लोगों को भी इंडस्ट्री में भाग लेने की दिशा में इंसेंटिव मिलेगा और हम इस राष्ट्र को और अधिक मजबूत बना पायेंगे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2 O' clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock **The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee)** in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

New oil strike in Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): Madam Vice-Chairman I am happy to make this statement about significant oil strike in the Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu.

Oil and gas have been struck in an exploratory well. Narimanam-1, by deploying ONGC owned rig E-760 which was drilled to 2321 metres. The well is situated in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu at a distance of about 10 kms South-West of Nagapatinam town and about 11 kms South-South-west of Karaikal and was spudded on 28th March, 1985. Initial flow of 15,400 cubic metres of gas and 200 barrels of oil per day has been observed. Production testing is in progress to ascertain the stabilised low rate.

This is the second hydrocarbon strike in Onland Cauvery Basin in recent months, the first being much smaller one in January, 1985 in Kovilkalappai-1 well about 10 kms. from the present location. These oil strikes in the lower tertiary sediments in the Karaikal-Nagapattinam areas enhance the petroleum potential in this sub-basin and more discoveries can be expected in similar geological conditions in the basin.

Currently, two rigs are drilling in Cauvery onland and one more rig is being added shortly to increase the pace of exploratory drilling.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Hon. Members will seek clarifications. Shri Ramakrishnan. Please be brief.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): As I could see, there was spontaneous appreciation of the good news given by the hon. Minister for Petroleum today. I am all the more happy because I come from the State

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

of Tamil Nadu and this is the second strike in that area as said by the Minister.

I would only like to ask two specific questions. In the context of the recent discussions going on about the estimates of total outlay for the 7th Five Year Plan, there was a report that the total outlay asked for by the Ministry for ONGC was Rs. 17,609 crores and it was pruned down to Rs. 9,000 crores by the Planning Commission. In view of the considerable foreign exchange saving that is there and in view of the new strikes, I would like to know whether there is any rethinking on the part of the Planning Commission and the Government to see that higher outlay is given for ONGC so that we may pursue our policy of expanding ONGC and also be self-sufficient in oil in course of time.

Secondly, is there any chance of reduction in oil prices because of the new strikes? These are the two specific questions to which I would like to have the answer from the Minister.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): After reading the news in the morning newspaper that our oil potential in the Bombay High is hardly sufficient to last only for approximately 15 years, I am heartened by this new discovery which has been made by the Government, by the ONGC, and I personally feel that more vigorous efforts should have been directed towards it, and because we are a country which has to spend a lot of money on purchasing oil from Gulf countries and from other sources, and thereby a lot of foreign exchange is lost. That is all the more reason why we should have tried to direct our efforts so as to be self-sufficient, if not completely, at least to some extent. Therefore, I would only say that this discovery has come too late, but even as it is, there are other places where oil can be expected and I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister as to what is the potential which can be tapped in the next five or seven years to come. I want a categorical answer to this question so that we can have satisfaction in our mind that towards oil and gas if we are not completely self-sufficient, at least to some extent we are self-sufficient. This will save us from the trouble and botheration of getting oil in lieu of foreign exchange which can, more or less, be done away with. I only want a categorical reply from the Hon. Minister to this question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Vice-Chairman, I whole-heartedly applaud and congratulate the hon. Minister for making the statement. The first was made in Kovilkallppal which is about 10 kms. away from the present location. So making out the second successive strike near Nagapattinam shows that the entire region possesses some more potential. I would like to ask so far how many on-land wells and off-shore wells have been drilled in the Cauvery Basin and also what is the total amount spent uptodate? Also, will the Minister consider a suggestion from the experts that a considerable portion of foreign exchange expenditure could be avoided if the required platform and supply vessels can be fabricated domestically with technical assistance from the foreign firms as far as the ONGC and OIL are concerned? These are the clarifications, I would like to seek

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, this statement is very encouraging and I welcome this statement. The Minister has said that an initial flow of 15,4000 cubic metres of gas and 250 barrels of oil per day has been observed and further progress is being made. I would like to know from the Minister whether such experiments are also being made in the Godavari basin. Godavari basin is quite important, where gas has been found there in Andhra Pradesh. So, I would like to

know from the Minister whether any effort has been made to find out if oil can also be found in this basin. As you know, we are importing a large quantity of oil from foreign countries and Gulf countries and are spending a lot of foreign exchange on that. So in order to save that and be self-sufficient, it is necessary that all efforts should be made to find out sources of not only gas but also of oil. Godavari basin is one where gas has been found. So are you making any effort to find out if oil can be found there?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Madam, many questions have been raised by hon. Members and the main emphasis is that we should have self-sufficiency in oil. It is true that we are striving for self-sufficiency. In fact we have been able to achieve 70% self-sufficiency in the matter of oil by the end of Sixth Plan But because the consumption is also growing at a much faster rate—it is nearly 7.6 per cent annual growth in consumption—it makes achievement of self-sufficiency a difficult task. But in spite of this growth in consumption, our effort is directed towards achievement of self-sufficiency. But oil exploration is quite a specultative type of thing. Nothing can be said with certainty. And it is just a question of chance. Of course we try this on the basis of scientific analysis of data available, but in spite of our best efforts and latest technology also being applied, it cannot be said with certainty that in a particular area oil or gas would be available. So I would not be in a position to say that by what date and how far we will be able to achieve this self-sufficiency. As I said earlier, our effort is directed towards that goal and it is because of this, realising fully well that a large amount of foreign exchange has to be spent for meeting our requirements, that we are trying to approach oil exploration with a new strategy. The strategy is of integrated, intensive exploration and drilling.

In the coming years we want to concentrate on the more prospecting sedimentary basins which are high oil and gas bearing ones. As the hon. Members are aware, we are trying to adopt some of the latest technology of water injection and so on. This, we hope, would give us more returns in the output of oil and gas.

The hon. Member has also asked a question with regard to the effect of the cut in the 7th Five-Year Plan. The 7th Five-Year Plan is yet to be finalized. We are hopeful that the cut would not substantially affect the ONGC programme for oil and oil exploration but if the cut is substantial naturally some of the lesser prospective areas have to be shelved for the time being.

With regard to the cut in oil prices, probably our prices of the oil products compare favourably with the world prices and I do not see, in the near future, any possibility of bringing down the oil prices.

With regard to Mr. Reddy's question on Krishna-Godavari basin, we are doing exploratory work in the Krishna-Godavari basin. Gas has been found there but petrol has yet to come. We are trying our best. An ambitious plan for drilling has been drawn up for the 7th Five-Year Plan also and we can only hope that along with his gas we might get some petrol also.

With regard to Shri Gopalsamy's question, I would not be able to indicate the total outlay because these figures are not readily available; but I would certainly furnish the information to him. Our effort is directed towards this end and we are trying our best to see that more areas in Thanjavur district come out to be oil bearing.

With the support of the honourable Memebrs Madam, we hope that ONGC and Oil India would be able to meet and come up to the expectations of this nation. Thank you very much.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): We extend all help and support.